

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of time slicing a telecommunications call, comprising:
connecting a caller to a subscriber of a time slicing service;
determining if the subscriber is available to receive a call from the caller;
connecting the caller to an alternate device that provides alternate services
when the subscriber is not available to receive the call;
terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between
the caller to the subscriber when the subscriber is available to receive the call; and
determining a portion of total call charges associated with the call that is
attributable to at least one entity other than the subscriber based on the alternate services
provided.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
connecting the caller to an automatic call distributor associated with the
subscriber.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
connecting the caller to the subscriber through a telecommunications
system having an ATM backbone.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
determining if the subscriber is associated with time slicing services; and
determining at least one of an alternate device that provides alternate
services, a key sequence that indicates the subscriber is available to receive a call,
whether alternate services in progress should be completed or interrupted when
reconnecting a caller to the subscriber, and whether alternate services should be provided
at any point after the subscriber receives the call.
5. A method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting a caller comprises:
routing the call through a device capable of detecting if the subscriber is
available to receive the call.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the subscriber is
available comprises:
detecting voice activity between the caller and the subscriber.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the subscriber is
2 available comprises:

3 receiving a signal from the subscriber indicating that the subscriber is not
4 available to receive the call.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the caller to an
2 alternate device comprises:

3 maintaining the connection between the caller and the subscriber as active;
4 and
5 connecting the caller to an IP that provides the alternate services.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the caller to an
2 alternate device comprises:

3 connecting the caller to a device that provides advertising information to
4 the caller.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating the alternate
2 services comprises:

3 receiving a signal from the subscriber representing that the subscriber is
4 available to receive the call.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating the alternate
2 services comprises:

3 receiving a signal representing that the subscriber is available to receive
4 the call; and

5 interrupting the alternate services to reconnect the caller and the
6 subscriber.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating alternate services
2 comprises:

3 waiting until the alternate services are complete before reconnecting the
4 caller and the subscriber.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a portion of total
2 call charges comprises:

3 allocating charges to an entity that owns advertising information that is
4 provided to the caller during the call.

14. A method of time slicing a telecommunications call, comprising:
connecting a caller to a called party;
determining that one of the caller and the called party is not available for
communication with the other of the caller and the called party;
connecting the other of the caller and the called party to a device that
provides alternate services while the caller or called party is not available;
terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between
the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called party are available for
communication; and
determining a portion of total call charges that are attributable to at least
one of the caller, the called party and another entity based on the alternate services
provided.

15. A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability,
comprising:
connecting means for connecting a caller to a called party;
availability determining means for determining that one of the caller and
the called party is not available for communication with the other of the caller and the
called party;
alternate services means for providing alternate services to the caller when
the caller or called party is not available;
terminating means for terminating the alternate services and resuming
communication between the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called
party are available for communication; and
charge determining means for determining a portion of total call charges
that are attributable to at least one of the caller, the called party and another entity based
on the alternate services provided.

16. A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability,
comprising:
an originating switch that receives a signal from a caller indicating a desire
to be connected with a called party;

5 a controller that provides information regarding how the signal from the
6 caller should be handled;

7 a destination switch that connects to the called party based on information
8 from the controller;

9 a switching network that interconnects the originating switch with the
10 destination switch;

11 a sensing device that detects that one of the caller and the called party is
12 not available for communication; and

13 an alternate services device that provides alternate services to the other of
14 the caller and the called party while the caller or called party is unavailable;

15 wherein portions of the call during which alternate services are provided
16 are charged to entities based on the alternate services provided.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the switching network is an ATM
2 backbone having a multipoint-to-multipoint connection capability.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the sensing device is an IP device that
2 detects a lack of communication between the caller and the called party.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the alternate services device is an IP that
2 provides advertising information to the caller while the called party is unavailable.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein portions of the call during which
2 advertising information is provided to the caller is charged to an advertiser associated
3 with the advertising information.

1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the sensing device comprises an SCP that
2 does not keep track of called party resources.